Can You Get Out, or Is Your Route Blocked?

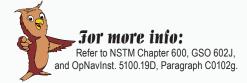
By GSCS(SW) John Davis, Naval Safety Center

scape scuttles are installed in flush hatches in flight decks, cargo decks, hangar decks, passageways, and other high-traffic areas where a flush deck is needed to eliminate tripping hazards or to maintain a smooth trucking surface. You also can find flush, 25-inch-diameter scuttles in bulkheads to provide emergency-egress routes.

Never block escape scuttles, and they never should be locked so you can't open them from the inside. Each scuttle also must have a label plate installed on the top. The plate will have one-inch, red letters and read, "Warning—Escape Scuttle—Do Not Obstruct or Block."

Walk along your escape route and remove anything that is—or in an emergency could be—blocking the scuttle. Do it before a mishap report lists you as the Sailor who couldn't escape from a space because of a blocked escape scuttle.

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